

1624 Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2013 – Eastridge Church, Issaquah

Attendees:

Robbin Clough, Paul Emmett, Natalie Gaygarzhi, Joanne Puthoff, Tom Puthoff, John March, Mechelle Pryor, Tracy Guillen, Talya Miller, Gia Wesley, Doreen Holze

| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION SUMMARY | DECISIONS | ASSIGNMENTS | DUE DATES | LEADS |
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| Foster Parent Issues | <p>Foster parents are concerned about retention. Their licensors seem to change a lot, and it appears that there isn't a lot of effort being made by the Department to retain foster parents/homes.</p> <p>Foster parents are scared by what they see in the news related to charges against foster parents.</p> <p>Foster parents would like to see a campaign to get new foster parents/homes – share the success and positive stories of foster care children and parents out to new media.</p> | | | | |
| 1624 Meetings | Foster parents would like background information on | | | | |

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| | how 1624 came about and the bill that established these meetings. | | | | |
| Discussions | <p>Foster parents talked about how important it is to include them in various meetings regarding their foster children including court hearings, as well as getting their input on what is happening with the children in their case.</p> <p>Guardianships – there was discussion about how much guardianships have changed, including subsidies for relative guardianships, but not non-relative guardianships.</p> <p>One foster parent expressed feeling pressured to “adopt or else the children would be removed from their home.” Talya Miller apologized for the foster parent being made to feel that way, as it is not the CA/DCFS culture for workers to treat foster parents in that manner.</p> | | | | |

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| <p>Gia Wesley - DLR</p> | <p>Gia spoke about her department and what she did in DLR. This lead to discussion about the unified home study process.</p> <p>Foster parents had questions about what the differences are between the previous home studies and the current home study process.</p> <p>Discussion also took place about why the changes were made – Gia explained:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approximately 70% of foster parents adopt, which requires a unified home study. 2. There is now only one home study process to go through – the unified home study. 3. The new process allows for quicker permanency for the children. | | | | |
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| Travel Policy | <p>Foster parents want more information regarding the travel policy for foster children.</p> <p>What approvals are required?</p> <p>What are the timeframes for making/submitting requests?</p> | | John March will provide a travel matrix for foster parents in regards to travel policy for foster children. | | |
| Privatization | <p>Foster parents asked about the privatization. John March stated that the evidence based contracts are in play and being used, however, the contracting out of social worker duties is on hold.</p> | | | | |
| Additional Discussion Items | <p>Talya Miller spoke about a Tool Box that had been created to help foster parents. It contained information on resources and information for foster parents. Talya is working to have this box updated.</p> | | Stephanie Allison-Noone will take this information back to share at the A.A. meeting. | | |

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| | <p>Talya also spoke about a mini-conference to be held in August for foster parents. Providers will be there to talk about the services they offer children and foster parents.</p> <p>Talya indicated a member of the UW SW training staff will meet with the Hope Alliance group to get a list of resources.</p> <p>Talya also spoke about the need to educate law enforcement, helping them to understand that there are different rules for foster parent and foster children in their care, compared to bio parents. Specifically regarding discipline of foster children.</p> <p>Talya spoke about a document she, Gia Wesley, Ruben Reeves and Stephanie Allison-Noone created about foster parent issues.</p> <p>Gia talked about the statewide 1624 meetings and</p> | | | | |
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| | <p>how it would be at that level that policy issues would/could be dealt with.</p> <p>Talya also spoke about respect for foster parents. This is an issue that has been elevated from Region 2 South to the statewide level, which includes sharing information with foster parents, dealing with the issue of social workers not listening to foster parents and DLR compliance issues such as start and end dates for compliance plans.</p> <p>A project Talya is working on is an “Unsung Heroes” event or process. Something that will recognize foster parents, social workers and others that give of themselves and their time, and go the extra mile to help out foster children and/or parents. Talya hopes to have this active by the lat 1624 meeting in December 2013.</p> | | | | |
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